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DEPARTMENT OF GENETICS
Professor Joshua Lederberg

MAR 27 1969

-15-69
(SYM
3-15-69)

Dear Dr. Benirschke

Your article in the New Scientist for
16 Jan. has only just come to my attention.

Have you written further on this
aspect of conservation? We have evidently
been thinking along related lines. Are
you pursuing them?

Sincerely,
Joshua Lederberg

Dr. Kurt Benirschke
Dartmouth Medical School
Hanover, New Hampshire

LT. JOSEPH P. KENNEDY, JR. LABORATORIES FOR MOLECULAR MEDICINE
dedicated to the study of mental retardation
Molecular Biology Heredity Neurobiology Developmental Medicine

from one to another with
every shrill outcry about the
Hawaiian Nukupu or the
Mongolian wild ass. We
ought to frame a policy that
we know how to pursue and
enforce for the effective
preservation of the species
that can be saved.

Is that

E. Przewalski?

Perhaps not a felicitous example!

r to Be Doomed d by Pollution

t for When we see clearly
The which ones we might abandon,
hesus we can also reckon the
wing balance of merits and costs
in adopting them too. If we
exam- muddle along as we have
been been doing, they will all go.

During this process, our
t last museums of natural history
rare must be transformed into
now more effective depositories
r re- of what can be saved from
have the dying remains. Here,
ago. modern biology may offer
disap- unexpected contributions to
s of a museum's responsibility:
nong the preservation in cold
tives storage of tissue samples of
der- representative animals, a
rain technique already widely
ig of used in laboratory studies.
or, At the very least, our des-
wer- cendants will be able to re-
yet- construct some importan-
iso- detail from the study of DNA
zoos molecules retrieved from
it on such a library. Furthermore,
and a whooping crane might be
few hatched in future from an-
ntial other bird's egg that has
es is been renucleated from
will frozen, dormant tissue. This
backstop ought not be ac-
cepted as a substitute for
nurturing the wild birds,
however, any more than

st of freezing some human cells
re- would take the place of sav-
ing mankind.

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very
not
tion

BENIRSCHKE
May I stress this to you